



Illustration by Robert Allen

## ***ARABIS FECUNDA*** **SAPPHIRE ROCKCRESS**

Sapphire Rockcress is a perennial with 1-many unbranched, flowering stems that are up to 30 cm high arising from a branched rootcrown. Basal leaves are in 1-many clusters, spoon-shaped or lance-shaped, 10-30 mm long and 2-4 mm wide, with entire margins or a few shallow lobes toward the tip; the stem leaves are smaller and clasping. Usually two types of basal leaves can be distinguished: larger, broader ones produced in the fall, and narrower ones produced in the spring. Foliage is grayish-white with a dense cover of small, branched hairs. Flowers are several to many and white or bluish-tinged, borne in an unbranched spike-like inflorescence. Flowers have 4 petals that are 9-13 mm long and 3-5 mm wide, and densely hairy sepals that are 6-7 mm long and ca. 2 mm wide. Capsules are grayish hairy, 3-5 cm long and 1-2 mm wide, nearly erect when mature, and have two narrow chambers with a single row of small seeds in each one. Flowering from late April-early June.

Distinguished from other *ARABIS* in Montana by the nearly erect fruits, densely grayish covering of branched hairs on the foliage and fruits, and the two different types of basal leaves.